Losses suffered by the Railways by suspension of trains due to floods

2290. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of trains were suspended in September-October because of the floods; and

(b) if so, what is the number of trains suspended, the losses suffered by the Railways and by when the restoration of rail services is likely to be fully ensured?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha. However, trains suspended are restored as soon as normalcy returns and the statistics of train-wise losses are not maintained.

Indo-Nepal Joint Industrial Ventures

2291. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Nepal Joint Commission meeting was held on the 13th August, 1988;

(b) if so, whether Nepal has sought India's assistance in reinforcing bilateral economic ties in the field of joint industrial ventures;

(c) whether India and Nepal have set up three panels for the purpose; and

(d) if so, to what extent the relations and trade between the two countries is likely to improve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the seventh meeting of the Indo-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade, Transit and Unauthorised Trade held in June 1984, India had suggested to Nepal the expansion of export-oriented production facilities in Nepal through Indo-Nepal joint ventures.

(c) A joint Indo-Nepal Study Team has been set up to identify suitable joint ventures.

(d) The promotion of Indo-Nepal joint ventures is an important step in the further strengthening of bilateral economic relations.

Indo-Bangladesh talk regarding floods

2292. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held recently between India and Bangladesh for the setting up a front task-force for tackling the problem of floods which occur through rivers flowing through both the countries; and

(b) if so, what are the results of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) During the visit of the President of Bangladesh to India on September 29, 1988 it was decided to set up a Joint Task Force comprising water resources experts of flood management and water flows and Brahmaputra waters jointly for flood management and water flows thereof. The task force should look at both short-term and long-term measures, consult the existing studies and report in six months time".